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Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 19
Human rights

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* A/61/50 and Corr.1.

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Overall orientation

19.1 The overarching purpose of the United Nations human rights programme is the universal enjoyment of human rights by all. The 2005 World Summit acknowledged peace and security, development and human rights as interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of the United Nations system, providing foundations for collective security and well-being. The United Nations human rights programme has the vital responsibility for contributing to conflict prevention and resolution, as well as for helping to make development equitable, sustainable and responsive to the needs of people through the application of the rights-based approach methodology. In order to promote and encourage respect for human rights, the programme undertakes to give practical effect to the will and resolve of the world community, as expressed through the United Nations. Its mandate derives from Articles 1, 13, 55 and 62 of the Charter of the United Nations; the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/121; Assembly resolution 48/121 establishing the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; international human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations; the outcomes of relevant United Nations conferences and summits; and the resolutions and decisions of policymaking bodies, including, in particular, Assembly resolutions 55/2 on the United Nations Millennium Declaration and 60/1 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

19.2 The programme falls under the leadership of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, entrusted with the principal responsibility for the human rights activities of the Organization, under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) acts as the central supportive structure for the programme. By 2008, the Office will complete the first phase of its reform in the follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, which took note of the High Commission's plan of action.

19.3 The programme will strive to fill the gaps in the implementation of international human rights standards. It will endeavour to work with all relevant parties to remove obstacles to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent human rights violations from occurring or continuing throughout the world. The country engagement strategy of the Office will allow for the realization of the programme in the framework of the enhanced partnerships at the national, regional and international levels. It will draw on the values of the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome document, which call for the promotion of democracy, the strengthening of the rule of law and respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development. Priority will continue to be given to emphasizing the importance of human rights on international and national agendas, combating poverty and countering discrimination on all internationally recognized grounds, including race, sex, language or religion, advancing the rights of children and women, raising awareness of human rights at all levels of education, responding to the needs of the vulnerable for protection and addressing situations of international concern, as identified by the Human Rights Council and other relevant United Nations organs.

19.4 Increased support for human rights implementation will be provided to Member States, at their request, through, inter alia, assistance to national systems of human rights protection, human rights education and other activities to protect

rights holders. All human rights activities will be addressed in an integrated, interrelated and interdependent manner. The programme will continue to take gender issues fully into account in the development and application of norms and procedures so that violations against women and girls are clearly identified and addressed. Substantive and organizational support will be provided to the Human Rights Council and its procedures, other relevant United Nations organs and treaty-monitoring bodies. Particular efforts will be made to strengthen, rationalize and streamline the United Nations mechanisms in the field of human rights, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolutions 48/141 and 60/1. The programme will strive to meet the essential challenge of ensuring the enjoyment of human rights worldwide, through the dedicated and coordinated efforts of all relevant partners, focusing on the empowerment and protection of people.

19.5 The programme strategy will be guided by the lessons learned from the 2006-2007 biennium, in particular with regard to measurements of achievement that can be implemented realistically by OHCHR and its partners.

Subprogramme 1
Human rights mainstreaming, right to development, research and analysis

19.6 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Research and Right to Development Branch of the Operations, Programmes and Research Division.

A. Human rights mainstreaming

Objective of the Organization: to advance further integration of human rights and their gender dimension into development, humanitarian, peace and security, governance, and rule of law programmes and activities of the United Nations, in particular at the country level

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Incorporation of all human rights aspects into development, humanitarian, peace and security, governance and rule of law programmes and activities of United Nations system agencies, departments and bodies and United Nations country teams	(a) Increased number of United Nations common country programming documents that integrate a human rights perspective
(b) Strengthened capacity of the United Nations human rights programme to assist Member States, at their request, in building and strengthening national systems for human rights protection	(b) Increased number of human rights guidance and methodological tools for development, humanitarian, peace and security, governance and rule of law activities developed under United Nations frameworks, aimed at strengthening the capacity of United Nations country teams, integrated missions, departments and bodies

(c) Wider knowledge within the entire United Nations system, including United Nations country teams, of relevant human rights issues and their gender dimension	(c) Increased number of Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators, Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, other senior officials and country teams trained and advised by OHCHR

Strategy

19.7 This part of the subprogramme will play a leadership role in pursuing United Nations system-wide partnership for the integration of all human rights into development, humanitarian, peace and security, governance and rule of law programmes and activities within the United Nations system in order to contribute to closing gaps in the implementation of international human rights standards. The strategy will focus on:

(a) Enhancing system-wide, coordinated efforts and coherent policies for the promotion and protection of human rights at the country level by placing human rights at the heart of United Nations programmes and activities in the development, humanitarian, peace and security, governance and rule of law areas;

(b) Strengthening the substantive engagement and partnership of OHCHR with the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, other United Nations agencies and civil society, promoting the practical integration of human rights into development programmes, as well as ensuring consistency and mutual reinforcement between United Nations-supported development activities and OHCHR country engagement strategies;

(c) Developing methodologies to facilitate the incorporation of all human rights in United Nations policies, programmes and activities for development, peace and security, rule of law, governance and humanitarian assistance, including by advancing the practical application of rights-based approaches to all the aforementioned areas;

(d) Contributing to developing the capability of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations country teams, through training, advice and methodological tools to assist Member States, at their request, in building and enhancing national capacities to promote and protect human rights and in mainstreaming human rights into national policies.

B. Right to development

Objective of the Organization: to advance the promotion and protection of the right to development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Further integration and/or inclusion of the promotion and protection of the right to development in global partnerships for development	(a) Increased number of partnerships agreed to and applying specific criteria for the assessment of global development partnerships from the perspective of the right to development

(b) Enhanced awareness, knowledge and understanding of the right to development at the international, regional and country levels	(b) Increased number of analytical papers and information materials relevant to the right to development made available by OHCHR to its partners within and outside the United Nations

Strategy

19.8 This part of the subprogramme will pursue a multidimensional strategy for the implementation of the right to development, focusing on:

(a) Providing substantive support to the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary mechanisms on the implementation of the right to development;

(b) Building stronger partnership and collaboration with relevant actors, including Member States, multilateral institutions and civil society, so that support given to human rights bodies relevant to the right to development will have increased focus on its practical implementation;

(c) Encouraging the promotion and protection of the right to development in global development partnerships, as reflected in Millennium Development Goal 8 (aid, trade and debt reduction), through advocacy, networking, technical advice and the establishment of partnerships and other kinds of cooperation;

(d) Promoting the implementation of the right to development in national development strategies, such as, inter alia, poverty reduction strategy papers, national Millennium Development Goals strategies and United Nations development frameworks, through close cooperation with Member States and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes;

(e) Identifying obstacles at the national, regional and international levels to the implementation of the right to development and promoting awareness about the content and importance of the right to development, including through increased engagement at the country level, research, advocacy and informational and educational activities.

C. Research and analysis

Objective of the Organization: to contribute to closing gaps in the implementation of international human rights standards based on an analysis of human rights problems and challenges and through the development and application of expertise on human rights themes and methodologies

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced effectiveness of the United Nations efforts to counter the disadvantaged situation or exposure to discrimination of groups such as women, children, persons belonging to minorities, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, migrants and victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	(a) Increased number of activities and measures taken to promote and protect the enjoyment of human rights by members of those groups

(b) More effective implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with regard to poverty reduction and combating HIV/AIDS	(b) Increased number of activities and measures undertaken in promoting and developing rights-sensitive poverty reduction strategies
(c) Enhanced legal protection and advocacy for the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights at the regional and country levels	(c) Strengthened legal protection and advocacy in implementing economic, social and cultural rights
(d) More effective United Nations assistance to Member States and other stakeholders, at their request, in strengthening the rule of law and democracy mechanisms for the protection of all human rights and in implementing the relevant instruments elaborated by the United Nations legislative bodies	(d) Increased number of policies, measures and tools developed by OHCHR and other United Nations partners to assist all actors, including Governments and civil society, in strengthening and building democratic institutions, law enforcement and correction measures, accountability mechanisms, the administration of justice, combating impunity, enhancing rights-based approaches to counter terrorism and trafficking, law enforcement and correction measures, and rights-based approaches to transitional justice for conflict and post-conflict States
(e) Enhanced methodological expertise to implement human rights activities in support of country engagement, leadership and partnership strategies	(e) Increased number of methodological and operational guidelines and tools, and training materials developed, including indicators for human rights assessment
(f) Enhanced capacity of OHCHR to provide training and advice to promote human rights compliance and to protect rights-holders at the national level	(f) Increased number of advice and training activities provided by OHCHR and its partners in relevant substantive areas

Strategy

19.9 This part of the subprogramme strategy will be based on the consolidation, further development and strengthening of substantive human rights expertise to support effective engagement with countries and global and national-level partnerships and to provide leadership to meet current human rights challenges. Strengthened expertise will be brought to bear to overcome human rights implementation gaps and will provide the basis for OHCHR to work on technical cooperation, advocacy, training, policy development, analysis, protection and advice to partners. The strategy will focus on:

(a) Advocacy for the indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights by enhancing substantive and methodological expertise; development of partnerships within and outside the United Nation for capacity-building in the areas of the rule of law, democracy and good governance; a human rights approach to anti-trafficking measures as well as to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, including poverty reduction and combating HIV/AIDS; and countering the disadvantaged situation or exposure to

discrimination of groups such as women, children, persons belonging to minorities, indigenous people, persons with disabilities and migrants;

(b) Advancing knowledge, awareness, understanding and implementation of all human rights, including through research, policy-oriented analysis, support to standard-setting and clarification, capacity-building, protection, advocacy, development of methodologies and best practices in the areas of human rights protection, institution-building and education, development and delivery of human rights training activities, including within the framework of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, provision of specialized human rights reference services and improved knowledge management;

(c) Effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including wider inclusion in advisory services and training provided to countries, upon their request, of measures to be taken to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and enhancement of research and analysis in this area.

Subprogramme 2
Supporting human rights bodies and organs

Objective of the Organization: to further the enjoyment and protection of human rights, increase the knowledge and awareness of the international human rights machinery among national and international actors and rationalize, streamline and provide substantive support and advice to existing human rights mechanisms and procedures, including the Human Rights Council

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Timely delivery of required substantive and technical support to intergovernmental bodies, in particular to the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary and expert mechanisms, in developing and implementing the methodology to carry out their functions	(a) (i) Increased availability of documents and prompt provision of substantive and technical support to the intergovernmental machinery and its subsidiary mechanisms through the use of new information technology facilities and tools (ii) Satisfaction expressed by Member States as a result of the substantive advice provided by the Secretariat to the organs concerned
(b) Timely delivery of required substantive support to States parties related to their participation in more streamlined and harmonized procedures before treaty bodies, in particular with respect to reporting through the common core document and targeted treaty-specific reports	(b) Increased number of States parties submitting streamlined reports on the basis of the harmonized reporting guidelines
(c) Enhanced dissemination of treaty body outputs among national and international actors	(c) Increased number of national and regional courts citing treaty body recommendations and decisions

(d) Timely delivery of required substantive support to treaty bodies in preparation of their concluding observations and recommendations emanating from the review of State parties reports, as well as from country visits and consideration of individual complaints	(d) (i) Increased number of implementable recommendations (ii) Continuous introduction of refined methods of work allowing for a larger number of individual complaints to be concluded at each session of the treaty bodies concerned (iii) Increased number of complaints adopted by treaty bodies
(e) Enhanced cooperation with stakeholders who can benefit from and/or contribute to the work of treaty bodies, including provision of assistance to legislative reform in the area of human rights at the national level	(e) (i) Increased number of civil society actors, including national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and media, participating in treaty body sessions and activities relating to the treaty body system (ii) Higher level of cooperation with requesting countries in the development of laws and policy documents for adoption or revision by them

Strategy

19.10 The subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Treaties and Commission Branch of the Human Rights Procedures Division. The strategy will include:

(a) Drawing on all available in-house resources and expertise to provide substantive and technical support, including the analytical capacity, for the review of State reports, processing of individual complaints, and on the conduct of country visits by human rights treaty bodies;

(b) Enhancing the effective functioning of human rights bodies and organs, including the Human Rights Council, through coordinated support for the improvement, rationalization and streamlining of existing procedures, as well as systematic engagement with Governments, experts, special procedures mandate holders, specialized agencies, other international organizations, national institutions and non-governmental organizations to that end;

(c) Formulating concrete proposals designed to render the deliberations and decision-making by human rights bodies in relation to individual complaints procedures more effective;

(d) Strengthening the capacity and role of the OHCHR Documents Processing Unit, acting in close cooperation with the United Nations Office at Geneva, with a view to more effective coordination and streamlining of all of OHCHR documentation, as well as seeking to rationalize such documentation, including through initiatives to reduce its volume;

(e) Enhancing and coordinating in-house efforts more effectively and expanding partnerships with United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and the media to promote awareness and knowledge of all international human rights treaties in order to assist in closing gaps in implementing international human rights standards and complying with treaty commitments by States parties;

(f) Promoting ratification of the principal human rights conventions and protocols.

Subprogramme 3
Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities

Objective of the Organization: to cooperate with countries in efforts to strengthen the implementation of international human rights standards at the national level

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced assistance provided at the request of countries to support legislative reforms at the national level to remove obstacles to the full realization of human rights	(a) Increased number of laws and policy documents adopted or revised by Member States to ensure compliance with international human rights standards
(b) Enhanced institutional capacity development at the national level to meet the challenges to the full realization of human rights	(b) Increased number of human rights institutions established at the national level
(c) Enhanced human rights education and awareness-raising at the national level	(c) Increased number of institutionalized human rights training and education programmes in the formal education system and for core professional groups (law enforcement officials, prison officials, judges and lawyers)
(d) Enhanced capacity of United Nations country teams and United Nations peace missions to assist countries, at their request, in the development of national human rights protection systems	(d) Increased number of programmes implemented by United Nations country teams and human rights components of United Nations peace missions in support of national human rights protection systems
(e) Enhanced capacity of the United Nations to contribute to the prevention or halting of large-scale human rights violations at the national level	(e) Increased number of cases when OHCHR assisted in resolving identified situations of human rights crises at short notice

Strategy

9.11 The subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Capacity-Building and Field Operations Branch of the Operations, Programmes and Research Division. The strategy will include:

(a) Strengthening United Nations efforts for peace, security and development by enhancing the capacity of United Nations country teams and of United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions to assist countries in the development of national human rights protection systems based, inter alia, on the recommendations of human rights treaty-monitoring bodies and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. This will be achieved through joint activities with the United Nations offices or missions, the deployment of human rights officers and the provision of expert advice from Headquarters, regional and country offices;

(b) Rapidly deploying human rights observers and fact-finding missions in crisis situations, in particular those identified by the Human Rights Council and other United Nations policymaking bodies;

(c) Providing stakeholders at the national level with the involvement of all parts of OHCHR, with human rights legal advice, education and training through technical cooperation programmes aimed at strengthening the administration of justice and developing effective national human rights institutions, human rights education programmes and comprehensive national plans of action. The need to address different gaps in the implementation of human rights will guide the work of OHCHR in the field in all areas, including the response to early warnings;

(d) Strengthening United Nations system-wide cooperation at the regional and subregional levels for the protection and promotion of human rights, as well as interaction between OHCHR programmes in the field and treaty bodies and special procedures;

(e) Gathering information and observing human rights developments at the country level so as to assist the Human Rights Council and other United Nations policymaking bodies, as well as treaty-monitoring bodies and special procedures in engaging in a dialogue with countries in the implementation of their respective mandates and ensuring efficient support to the country-specific special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

Subprogramme 4
Support for human rights thematic fact-finding procedures

Objective of the Organization: to increase the contribution of the special procedures to the implementation of human rights at the country level

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved contribution by special procedures mandate holders to the analysis of gaps in the implementation of international human rights standards, especially in the context of early warning related to situations posing serious threats to peace and/or development	(a) Increased number of follow-up plans and activities to reports and recommendations made by the thematic mandate holders in analytical and programmatic documents and projects, including national human rights action plans, United Nations partner reports and programmes, including the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and OHCHR field-oriented programmes and activities

(b) Enhanced cooperation with stakeholders who can benefit from and/or contribute to the work of the special procedures	(b) Increased number of partners, including Governments, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies and programmes, United Nations human rights machinery, including treaty bodies, and policymaking bodies cooperating in the implementation of special procedures' findings
(c) Increased assistance to advocacy on behalf of victims of human rights violations and to endeavours to prevent the occurrence or continuation of human rights violations	(c) Increased number of responses, feedback and follow-up to activities by special procedures mandate holders, including individual communications
(d) Efficient communication with right holders and institutions acting on their behalf on how to address their concerns to special procedures and on the follow-up to interventions made	(d) Increased number of activities undertaken to disseminate information on special procedures to individuals, United Nations partners and civil society

Strategy

19.12 The subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Special Procedures Branch, of the Human Rights Procedures Division. The subprogramme will strengthen its research, analytical, communications, information and logistical support for thematic procedures with a view to enhancing the impact of their work by:

(a) Developing coherent methods of work and effective channels for the implementation, at the country level, of the findings and recommendations of the special procedures by:

(i) Strengthening the capacity of mandate holders to study, report and make recommendations within their mandates;

(ii) Providing a qualitative analysis of specific thematic issues, including alleged human rights violations;

(iii) Ensuring a smooth flow of information from mandate holders to OHCHR country engagement activities and vice versa;

(b) Supporting and providing thematic expertise to fact-finding missions, including through enhanced cooperation with OHCHR geographic desks;

(c) Disseminating knowledge of the findings and methodology of the thematic special procedures and improving coordination among mandate holders and between them and other mechanisms of the human rights machinery;

(d) Reinforcing dialogue and cooperation between thematic special procedures and partners, including Member States, United Nations country teams, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and victims themselves;

(e) Facilitating the special procedures' contribution to early warning mechanisms and to the formulation and implementation of technical cooperation programmes.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

48/141	High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of all human rights
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
60/144	Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
60/251	Human Rights Council

Commission on Human Rights resolutions

2004/2	Strengthening of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
2005/42	Integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system (subprogrammes 1 and 2)
2005/54	Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights (subprogrammes 1 and 3)
2005/58	Development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights

Subprogramme 1
Human rights mainstreaming, right to development, research and analysis

General Assembly resolutions

41/128	Declaration on the Right to Development
46/122	United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery
58/179	Access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria
59/113 A and B	World Programme for Human Rights Education
59/166	Trafficking in women and girls
59/174	Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
59/186	Human rights and extreme poverty

59/189	Missing persons
59/190	Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity
59/193	Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order
59/195	Human rights and terrorism
60/131	Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities
60/141	The girl child
60/142	Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
60/144	Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
60/145	Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination
60/147	Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law
60/150	Combating defamation of religions
60/152	Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights
60/155	Human rights and unilateral coercive measures
60/156	Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights
60/157	The right to development
60/158	Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism
60/159	Human rights in the administration of justice
60/160	Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities
60/163	Promotion of peace as a vital requirement for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all
60/165	Right to food
60/167	Human rights and cultural diversity

60/215	Towards global partnerships
60/232	Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1998/279	Question of human rights and states of emergency
2003/246	World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
2003/264	The Social Forum
2004/253	Human rights and extreme poverty
2004/256	Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights
2004/257	The right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms
2004/268	Follow-up to the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education
2004/275	Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights
2004/276	Traditional practices affecting the health of women and the girl child
2005/9	Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights
2005/10	Comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities
2005/30	Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law
2005/31	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2005/256	The right to development
2005/268	Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

2005/269	Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994
2005/270	Human rights and indigenous issues
2005/271	Human rights and international solidarity
2005/273	Human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises
2005/278	Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities
2005/279	Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

Commission on Human Rights resolutions

1999/46	Contemporary forms of slavery
2003/107	The Social Forum
2004/21	Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living
2004/34	The right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms
2004/35	Conscientious objection to military service
2004/43	Human rights in the administration of justice, in particular juvenile justice
2004/44	Human rights and terrorism
2004/45	Trafficking in women and girls
2004/50	Missing persons
2004/54	Tolerance and pluralism as indivisible elements in the promotion and protection of human rights
2004/71	Follow-up to the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education
2004/118	Fundamental standards of humanity
2005/3	Combating defamation of religions
2005/4	The right to development
2005/14	Human rights and unilateral coercive measures
2005/16	Human rights and extreme poverty
2005/17	Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

2005/18	The right to food
2005/20	Promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for different cultural identities
2005/22	Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights
2005/23	Access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria
2005/24	The right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
2005/25	Women's equal ownership, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing
2005/26	Human rights and forensic science
2005/29	Strengthening of popular participation, equity, social justice and non-discrimination as essential foundations of democracy
2005/30	Integrity of the judicial system
2005/31	Hostage-taking
2005/32	Democracy and the rule of law
2005/35	Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law
2005/36	The incompatibility between democracy and racism
2005/37	Promoting the rights to peaceful assembly and association
2005/42	Integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system
2005/45	Human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality
2005/49	Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
2005/50	Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994
2005/51	Human rights and indigenous issues
2005/52	Protection of indigenous peoples in times of conflict
2005/54	Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights
2005/55	Human rights and international solidarity

2005/56	Promotion of peace as a vital requirement for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all
2005/57	Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order
2005/59	The question of the death penalty
2005/60	Human rights and the environment as part of sustainable development
2005/61	World Programme for Human Rights Education
2005/64	World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
2005/65	Human rights of persons with disabilities
2005/66	Right to the truth
2005/68	The role of good governance in the promotion of human rights
2005/69	Human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises
2005/70	Human rights and transitional justice
2005/79	Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities
2005/80	Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism
2005/81	Impunity
2005/84	The protection of human rights in the context of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

Subprogramme 2
Supporting human rights bodies and organs

General Assembly resolutions

2106 A (XX)	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
2200 (XXI)	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
39/46	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
44/25	Convention on the Rights of the Child

59/176	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
59/262	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
60/141	The girl child
60/148	Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
60/149	International Covenants on Human Rights
60/231	Rights of the child

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1503 (XLVIII)	Procedure for dealing with communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Commission on Human Rights resolutions

2005/9	Cooperation with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies

Subprogramme 3
Advisory service, technical cooperation and field activities

General Assembly resolutions

58/269	Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change
58/315	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects
60/87	Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa
60/171	Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran
60/172	Situation of human rights in Turkmenistan
60/174	Situation of human rights in Uzbekistan
60/180	The Peacebuilding Commission
60/233	Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

2005/257	Situation of human rights in Myanmar
2005/258	Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
2005/259	Situation of human rights in Belarus

2005/275	Advisory services and technical assistance for Burundi
2005/276	Assistance to Sierra Leone in the field of human rights
2005/277	Technical cooperation and advisory services in Nepal
2005/280	Situation of human rights in the Sudan
2005/281	Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights
2005/282	Technical cooperation and advisory services in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
2005/293	Technical cooperation in the field of human rights in Afghanistan
2005/294	Situation of human rights in Haiti

Commission on Human Rights resolutions

2003/8	Human rights situation of the Lebanese detainees in Israel
2005/6	Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan
2005/7	Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem
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2005/73	Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights
2005/74	National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights
2005/75	Advisory services and technical assistance for Burundi
2005/76	Assistance to Sierra Leone in the field of human rights
2005/77	Technical cooperation and advisory services in Cambodia
2005/78	Technical cooperation and advisory services in Nepal
2005/82	Situation of human rights in the Sudan

2005/83 Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights

2005/85 Technical cooperation and advisory services in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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2005/117 Situation of human rights in Liberia

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2005 Question of Western Sahara (7 April 2005)

2005 Technical cooperation in the field of human rights in Afghanistan (21 April 2005)

2005 Situation of human rights in Haiti (21 April 2005)

2005 Situation of human rights in Colombia (22 April 2005)

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59/197 Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

58/245 Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

59/178 Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

60/161 Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

60/166 Elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief

60/168 Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons

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2004/285 Extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

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2003/21	Effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights
2003/23	Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights
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2003/27	Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living
2003/30	World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
2003/31	Question of arbitrary detention
2003/43	Independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers
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2004/25	The right to education
2004/36	Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance
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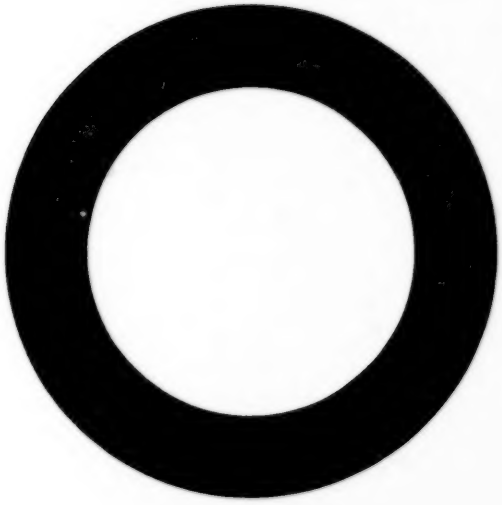

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Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 20
International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees

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Overall orientation

20.1 The overall objective of the programme is to provide international protection to refugees and others of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to seek permanent solutions to their problems, as well as to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance to them. Assistance plays a key role in facilitating international protection and the search for and realization of solutions. It is rooted in and grows out of the protective nature of the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In its operational activities, UNHCR seeks to integrate protection, the search for durable solutions and humanitarian assistance. The pursuit of durable solutions to the problems of refugees is the heart of protection and the principal purpose of the programme. The framework for the provision of international protection was further spelled out in the Agenda for Protection endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and welcomed by the General Assembly in 2002.[1]

20.2 The mandate for the programme is contained in General Assembly resolution 319 A (IV), by which the Assembly established UNHCR as from 1 January 1951, and resolution 428 (V), which sets out the statute of the Office. The Assembly has also called upon the High Commissioner to ensure that returnees receive assistance to help in their sustainable reintegration, as well as to monitor their safety and well-being on return (see resolution 40/118). In addition, on the basis of specific requests from the Secretary-General or the competent principal organs of the United Nations, and with the consent of the State concerned, UNHCR provides humanitarian assistance and protection to internally displaced persons (see resolution 48/116), working in cooperation with the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator (see resolution 58/153). In its work for internally displaced persons, and as part of the collaborative response of the United Nations system to internal displacement, UNHCR has been given special responsibility for the following three areas: protection, emergency shelter and camp management/coordination. As regards the assistance activities of UNHCR, the basic provisions of the statute were expanded by the Assembly in its resolution 832 (IX). Through the adoption by the Assembly of its resolution 58/153 on implementing actions proposed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen the capacity of his Office to carry out its mandate, the Office was given a renewed mandate to address the challenge of forced displacement through a mission based on a spirit of solidarity, responsibility and burden-sharing, with an abiding commitment to make the Office a truly multilateral institution. Related to its work for refugees and internally displaced persons, UNHCR has also been mandated to address the situation of stateless persons in accord with the Convention relating to Status of Stateless Persons (1954) and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961).

20.3 The international legal basis for the protection of refugees finds its principal expression in the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. In addition, there are a number of other international instruments of relevance, such as the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child. At the regional level, there are also important instruments and declarations, such as the Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa of the Organization of African Unity (now the African Union), the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, adopted by the Colloquium on the International Protection of Refugees in Central

America, Mexico and Panama, and the San José Declaration on Refugees and Displaced Persons. Similarly for stateless persons, the international legal basis for addressing their situation is the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.

20.4 UNHCR is responsible for the implementation of the programme. The overall strategy that will be followed consists of a range of activities undertaken in cooperation with States and various organizations and pursued with a continued strong emphasis on improving efficiency, transparency and accountability, especially through the institutionalization of results-based management. Notable among them are the following:

(a) The pursuit of comprehensive strategies, in cooperation with States and organizations, aimed at mitigating and preventing the causes of forced population movements as well as finding solutions to them when they occur;

(b) The ongoing development of a legal regime of international protection, in particular through the promotion of accessions to international and regional instruments relating to the status of refugees or otherwise benefiting refugees, the effective implementation of refugee rights and the promotion and dissemination of refugee law and protection principles;

(c) Ensuring that UNHCR fully participates in and supports the strengthened collaborative response of the United Nations to situations of internal displacement through its leadership and coordination of the areas for which the Office has been given special responsibility: protection, emergency shelter and camp management/coordination;

(d) The further development of contingency planning, emergency preparedness and response capabilities, in coordination with other organizations, so as to respond effectively and efficiently to situations of forced human displacement;

(e) Ensuring that UNHCR and its partners provide protection and humanitarian assistance in a manner that is sensitive to environmental considerations and in such a way that it is supportive of and reinforces development initiatives to the extent possible;

(f) Ensuring that UNHCR and its partners incorporate into all aspects of the delivery of humanitarian assistance the particular needs and capacities, ascertained through participatory assessments, of refugee women and elderly refugees and the special needs of refugee children and adolescents;

(g) The further development, in consultation with concerned parties, of options to ensure the security and the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements as well as security in areas of return and to explore further concrete ways of enhancing the safety and security of UNHCR staff and other humanitarian workers working with refugees and returnees. In this regard, due consideration should be given to the obligation of United Nations officials, in the conduct of their duties, to observe fully both the laws and regulations of Member States and their duties and responsibilities to the Organization;

(h) The systematic follow-up to relevant recommendations in the plans of action emanating from recent international conferences, especially the plan of action related to the Millennium Development Goals;

(i) The involvement, as soon as possible, of other humanitarian and development organizations, both national and international, in providing assistance to refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons and host communities and in the search for durable solutions.

20.5 The programme is under the intergovernmental guidance of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in accordance with its terms of reference, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 1166 (XII). At its fifty-sixth session, in 2005, the Executive Committee, while considering the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors on the financial statements of the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ending 31 December 2004, reviewed a recommendation related to the annual programme budget of UNHCR and the corresponding United Nations strategic framework and biennium budget to improve the congruence between the medium-term plan/strategic framework/biennial programme plan and the annual programme budget (A/AC.96/1010, para. 24). In a related decision, the Executive Committee took note of the audit report, the proposed follow-up of UNHCR to the audit recommendations (A/AC.96/1010/Add.1) and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/AC.96/1011/Add.1 and Corr.1). Accordingly, it is proposed that the subprogramme structure of the programme for the period 2008-2009 be reorganized and that the two subprogrammes that were approved in the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 be consolidated into a single subprogramme entitled "International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees". This would align the subprogramme structure with the structure of the UNHCR operational programme and reflect the fact that in its operational activities, UNHCR is seeking to more fully integrate protection, the search for durable solutions and humanitarian assistance.

Objective of the Organization: to lead and coordinate efforts for the international protection of refugees and other persons of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to seek permanent solutions to their problems, while at the same time ensuring the provision of humanitarian assistance throughout the refugee cycle

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced international protection regime, including its implementation at the national level	(a) (i) Increased number of accessions to the 1951 Convention/1967 Protocol
	(ii) Strengthened host country capacity to provide quality asylum
	(iii) Refugee status determination processes, which are the responsibility of UNHCR, further improved in terms of more efficient processing
(b) International standards of protection are more fully met for all persons of concern to UNHCR taking into account their age, gender and personal background	(b) (i) Improved knowledge of international protection standards through participation in the Protection Learning Programme

		(ii) Improved levels of registration of persons of concern
		(iii) Increased percentage of sexual and gender-based violence survivors who have received psychosocial, medical, legal or any other form of support
		(iv) Decreased number of refugee camps reporting children (6-59 months old) suffering from global acute malnutrition
		(v) Increased percentage of refugees in camps having access to culturally appropriate HIV/AIDS information-education-communication materials
(c) Progress towards finding durable solutions to the many instances of forced displacement	(c)	(i) Increased number of actors involved in activities aimed at promoting the self-reliance of returnees and providing support to host countries and countries of origin in order to promote durable solutions
		(ii) Increased number of refugees and other persons of concern who return from situations of forced displacement
		(iii) Increased number of persons resettled to third countries
(d) Strengthened partnerships with other actors to better enable UNHCR to discharge its mandate	(d)	(i) Increased level of voluntary contributions provided by the international community
		(ii) Number of emergency preparedness arrangements and contingency plans elaborated in response to potential refugee emergencies
		(iii) Increase in the number of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks that address refugee related issues

Strategy

20.6 Implementation of the programme falls under the overall responsibility of the Division of International Protection Services, the Division of Operational Services and the Regional Bureaux of UNHCR. The overall objective related to protection and durable solutions is multifaceted and will be pursued in a number of ways. Further accessions to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees as well as to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of

Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness will be promoted. The monitoring of the observance by States of internationally accepted standards for the treatment of refugees, especially the fundamental principles of asylum and non-refoulement, will contribute to ensuring the effective implementation of refugee rights by the States concerned. This will involve working especially for the establishment by States of fair and efficient procedures for the determination of refugee status or, as appropriate, other mechanisms to ensure that persons in need of international protection are identified and granted such protection, and to ensure that all persons seeking international protection are granted access to those procedures and mechanisms.

20.7 To ensure a more effective response to the protection needs of refugee women, children and adolescents, a more concerted effort to mainstream the policies and guidelines relating to refugee women, children and adolescents will be continued through the work of specially trained interdisciplinary UNHCR country teams. The promotion and dissemination of refugee law and protection principles, particularly through training, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and other relevant organizations of governmental and non-governmental officials will be another means of achieving the stated objective. In addition, when, on the basis of a specific request of the Secretary-General or a competent principal organ of the United Nations and with the consent of the State concerned, UNHCR provides protection to internally displaced persons, it will do so on the basis of criteria enumerated in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and in close collaboration with other concerned entities and agencies. To revitalize old partnerships and build new ones in support of the international refugee protection system, efforts to promote collaboration on refugee protection with a wide range of actors, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, will be continued. In order to find permanent solutions to the problems of refugees, especially those in protracted refugee situations, and internally displaced persons, efforts will be made to promote the development of more comprehensive and regional approaches.

20.8 The aspects of the programme dealing with humanitarian assistance, including emergency response, are under the responsibility of the Division of Operational Services and the Regional Bureaux. In order to implement the programme, UNHCR will engage in a number of strategies. In this connection, assistance, whenever possible, will be delivered in such a way that it involves the recipients and taps their potential. This participatory approach will be part of a broader situation analysis, which will also include improved demographic data deriving from the new registration tools (resulting from Project Profile) and the use of the established standards and indicators. This approach should lead to a significant improvement in the quality of the Office's assistance programmes, especially for refugee women, children and the elderly.

Legislative mandates

Conventions and conference declarations

Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and its Protocol (1967)

Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954)

Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961)

Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (1969)

Cartagena Declaration on Refugees (1984)

Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25) (1989)

San José Declaration on Refugees and Displaced Persons (1994)

General Assembly resolutions

58/153	Implementing actions proposed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen the capacity of his Office to carry out its mandate
60/129	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Executive Committee

A/AC.96/965/Add.1	Agenda for Protection

Note

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12 A* (A/57/12/Add.1), annex IV.